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The Highlander

Thursday **April 18 2024** | Issue 636

INSIDE: CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS PAGE 14-16

FREE



Take a bow

Matt Finlin and Keith Stata during a question-and-answer session after *The Movie Man* screened at Doc(k) Day at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion April 13. See more photos on page 24.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Heavy rain washes out Dysart road

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al roads staff are investigating after a portion of Boughner Road, about five kilometres north of Evergreen Cemetery, washed away April 12.

Rob Camelon, the township's public works director, said he received a call around 3 p.m. on Friday to say rushing water had taken out

a chunk of the municipally-owned road. It's believed a nearby beaver dam burst, sending water hurtling towards, and eventually through, the dirt road.

"We lost the entire road for a stretch of about 30-feet," Camelon told *The Highlander*.

Staff worked into the evening on Friday on

temporary repairs, establishing a single lane so people who live on the road can get in and out. It was reopened on Saturday.

Camelon said staff are working on a longer-term solution for replacement. Asked for an estimate on damages, and cost to repair the road, Camelon said he won't know until the project has been complete. He didn't

say whether the rebuild could be handled in-house or need to be contracted out.

Steven Bekker, who lives on Boughner Road, said he was made aware of the issue shortly after 3 p.m. One of his neighbours, texted to alert him after hearing the beaver dam collapse while driving home.

Continued 'Boughner' on page 2

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A portion of Boughner Road washed away April 12 after a nearby beaver dam burst. *Photo by Steven Bekker.*

Boughner Road single lane

Continued from page 1

“They said about two feet of depth of the road’s surface on the downstream side was already washed away,” Bekker noted.

About an hour later, Bekker went down to the stretch of road to look for himself, but things had progressed significantly.

“The road had completely collapsed. The chasm was about eight to 10 feet deep – a culvert that ran under Boughner to carry spring runoff had been washed downstream. The volume of water rushing out of the beaver pond was intense,” he said.

Steve Pheaton, who owns a home on the north side of Boughner, said it was a shock when, at around 2 p.m., he came over a crest in the road to find a section of it completely underwater. He called his brother, who also lives on the road,

to see if he was home.

“He said he’d only gotten home five minutes before and there was nothing wrong... it was quite the scene, water was just gushing down and over the road. There was no way I could pass through it, so I called a buddy down in Cannington and stayed at his place overnight,” Pheaton said.

Another of Bekker’s neighbours spoke with township staff at the site, who reported debris from the breach had likely plugged the culvert, forcing water over the road. Because Boughner is a dirt road, and the deluge of water was significant, it quickly washed away.

Bekker spoke with another neighbour who said this wasn’t a new problem.

“He said it had broken three or four times in the 30 years he has lived on the road,” Bekker said.



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Accommodation tax next for townships

By Lisa Gervais

Scott Ovell, the County's director of economic development and tourism, is on a road show – selling a municipal accommodation tax (MAT) to lower-tier governments.

He began his virtual tour with an April 9 Highlands East meeting, explaining that much like the short-term rental bylaw, the MAT will be the job of Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East and Minden Hills.

And it may very well be worth the effort, he indicated, estimating four per cent charged on short-term rentals could bring more than \$2 million to County coffers. It is not known what the breakdown of that would be for each municipality. He did acknowledge, however, that the figure is based on full compliance, whereas they expect 65-70 per cent will play ball in the first year.

Ovell said the program has mandatory requirements, which include that at least 50 per cent of revenue go to one or more eligible tourism entities that are not-for-profit. The money must be exclusively used for promoting and developing tourism.

He noted there is some discretion with the other 50 per cent, which would go to Highlands East. All townships get half of MAT revenue. For example, he said North Hastings had used MAT tax revenue for roads, since travellers use the road network.

How it would work is the short-term rental host would have to collect the tax and remit it to Granicus, the company hired to help the County's towns with its STR program. Ovell said it is for the room rate only, not amenity fees or service charges, such as parking, internet or cleaning. Bookings prior to the adoption of the MAT would be excluded from paying. It is expected to begin Oct. 1.



Director of economic development and tourism, Scott Ovell, is speaking to lower-tier municipalities about a MAT tax. *File.*

Referencing data collected from the Ministry of Tourism, Ovell said there were more than 150,000 reserved nights in the County in 2023 – up more than 90 per cent from 2019. He said the average daily rate, at more than \$350, had climbed 47 per cent since 2019. There had been a 281 per cent jump in revenue in that time period as well, to more than \$54 million. He divided that by the four per cent to come up with the more than \$2 million in potential MAT tax revenue.

“From an economic development and tourism standpoint, these numbers are great. This means we have a lot of people coming

to the County.” He said data also indicated the short-term rental users are spending more money and staying longer – “all really good things for us.”

As for next steps, he wants councils to pass the MAT at four per cent; direct non-municipally retained funds (50 per cent) to a municipal services corporation (MSC) created by the County, conduct public consultation on use of funds and prepare a draft service agreement between the MSC and the townships with the goal of having a consistent agreement amongst all four. He estimated it would take 12-18 months from the effective date of the bylaw to

when local governments will have a proper understanding of revenue generated through the program.

Deputy mayor Cec Ryall commented it would be, “one of the most, if not controversial, unpopular, taxes we are going to put in place especially for STR providers. But it's something we have to do. I don't see a way around it.” He said he is in favour of managing short-term rentals, but at no cost to taxpayers.

Ovell added that besides presenting to all four townships, he will have a report for the County soon.

AROUND THE COUNTY NEWS

Police shooting inquest set

Dr. Paul Dungey, regional supervising coroner, east region, Kingston office, has announced the date for the inquest into the death of Leslie Hegedus.

Hegedus, 73, died in the hospital July 15, 2020, following an interaction with OPP officers in Haliburton. An inquest into his death is mandatory under the Coroners Act.

“The inquest will examine the circumstances surrounding Mr. Hegedus' death. The jury may make

recommendations aimed at preventing further deaths,” a statement reads.

The inquest is expected to last eight days and hear from approximately five witnesses. It will begin at 9:30 a.m. April 22. Dr. Jennifer Clara Tang will be the presiding officer and Kim Motyl inquest counsel.

The inquest will be conducted by video conference. Members of the public who wish to view it can do so at firstclassfacilitation.ca/office-of-the-chief-coroner/inquest-into-the-death-of-leslie-hegedus. (*Around the County news compiled by Lisa Gervais*).

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HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

STR bylaw a go

Junior planner, Kim Roberts, clarified the last changes to the township’s short-term rental bylaw to prepare its passing last week.

If a STR has a structure, or building, on a shoreline road allowance, the applicant must apply to purchase the shoreline road allowance and enter into a short-term encroachment agreement for no more than three years until the sale goes through. They can then be licensed.

If it’s a floating, or pole dock, again, there must be an encroachment agreement to address municipal liability – and renewal of the agreement for the life of the STR license.

The other issue is that STRs must have exterior signage.

Coun. Angela Lewis queried how many licenses a person required if they had more than one STR, and Roberts said each property required a license.

Deputy mayor Cec Ryall wanted clarification on the demerit point system. Roberts said three points resulted in suspension and a fourth cancellation. She said a person could appeal and the demerits fall off after three years.

Gooderham Church a house

Council heard the new owners of the former Gooderham United Church were seeking rezoning, to residential from industrial.

Planner Chris Jones said the former church on County Road 503 had been sold in early 2024 and will be converted into a private home.

He commented on rural churches being repurposed, saying while “unfortunate” to see the historic churches close, they simply do not have the congregations to remain open. In this instance, he thinks the private home is a good option.

He added the building is close to the road so could not expand. It has a well, requiring test results to go to his department before rezoning, and a holding tank. There are two parking spaces out front.

Ryall agreed, “this one has a lot of history. Unfortunately, having known some of the people who were keeping it alive the last several years, maintenance on these buildings, as they deteriorate, are very



Deputy mayor Cec Ryall sought clarification on demerit points. *File.*

difficult to manage.” He said by keeping the building open, it respects the legacy and hopefully the new owners would somehow recognize the church history.

Fish hatchery update

Ian Hendry of the North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery in Bancroft came to Highlands East’s April 9 meeting.

He said they produce “local fish for local lakes,” stocking out of their hatchery since 2007. In an average year, they raise about

8,000 lake and brook trout. Hendry noted the fish genetics date back to the ice age with the Bancroft Jewel being their pride and joy.

They retrieve water from five onsite wells, which allows them to control the water temperature, versus flow-through hatcheries using local water bodies. They say the hatchlings eat all-year round and are large at release. They start with egg collection, raise them for 1.5 years, and have an average survival rate of 80 per cent.

Director Fred McConnell added they have

released 146,000 fish since beginning, 86 per cent lake trout. In Highlands East, he noted they had been stocking Paudash, Dark and Hudson lakes. He added a quarter of all the fish go into Paudash Lake, with just under 32,000 over the years. Hendry said the dollar value would be \$192,000. They released more from North Bay beach April 16. He noted they also have a community fundraising dinner in Bancroft on July 13. *(Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais).*

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Connection and Response, an exhibit by conceptual artist Bruce Cull, will be on display until June 8 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden. Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM. Admission is by donation. For more info: <https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-04-1000-Connection-and-Response-An-Exhibit-by-Bruce-Cull>
- In recognition of Earth Day, join the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Haliburton County Public Library for a special screening of “The Magnitude of All Things” (2020) at the Cultural Centre on Thursday, April 18 at 5:00 PM. Admission is free. All ages are welcome. For more info: <https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-18-1700-The-Magnitude-of-All-Things-Documentary-Screening>
- The UFO’s (Unfinished Objects Craft Group) will be meeting at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden on Friday, April 19 from 1 -3 pm. Bring your unfinished projects to work on and a snack. All are welcome!

NO DAYTIME BURNING – MESSAGE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

No daytime burning from April 1st to October 31st in any year. It is considered fire season. Fire restrictions are from 7:00 AM till 7:00 PM (daytime burning). No person shall start a fire outdoors during the restricted time in fire season.

GROUP FITNESS REGISTRATION

Spring Yoga and Group Fitness Registration now open. To register please visit www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St., Minden).

EARTH DAY CONTESTS

In support of Earth Day, the Township is running an Earth Day Contest, giving one Minden Hills resident an opportunity to win a new FoodCycler unit! Send us a picture of an eco-friendly initiative within Minden Hills such as a roadside clean up, and your name will be entered into a draw to win a FoodCycler unit. Include the location details of your eco-friendly initiative.

Also in celebration of Earth Day, the Township has an Earth Day colouring contest. Stop by the Township Office or any waste disposal site to pick up a colouring page. All submissions are to be emailed to ccosh@mindenhills.ca. Deadline to submit your entries is April 30, 2024.

REPORTING ISSUES

Reporting issues such as Township Road condition or maintenance needs can be done by calling 705-286-3144 Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. After hours emergencies can be reported by calling 1-866-856-3247.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- April 25 – Regular Council Meeting
- May 9 – Regular Council Meeting
- May 30 – Regular Council Meeting
- June 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at <https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx>. Visit our website for more information.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage. Visit www.mindenhills.ca for updates.

Five Counties moves into HHHS Minden

By Mike Baker

Five Counties Children's Centre has a new home base in Haliburton County, with the organization signing a five-year lease to move into the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) site in Minden.

Bill Eekhof, communications coordinator with Five Counties, confirmed the news April 15, noting programming began at the new location this week. The children's centre will utilize approximately 700 sq. ft. on the second floor of the community health wing, just off the main entrance.

The organization had been without a permanent space in the County since 2020 – when it vacated its previous spot at HHHS Minden at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Scott Pepin, Five Counties CEO, said this was a homecoming for his organization and a big win for Highlands families.

“Re-establishing our presence in Minden will save local families the need to drive to Lindsay or Peterborough to access treatment and therapy services,” Pepin said.

Five Counties specializes in speech, occupational, and physical therapy treatments for youth aged 19 and younger in Haliburton County, Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County. With the Minden addition, the organization now boasts five locations in its coverage area, Eekhof noted.

Services in Minden will be available by appointment and handled by staff from Five Counties' Lindsay and Peterborough locations.

Eekhof noted Five Counties is celebrating its 49th anniversary this year, launching in Peterborough in 1975, and has been supporting families in the County since the late 1980s. Last year, it served more than 6,200 youth – including 250 in Haliburton County.

Those local services were provided virtually and through a temporary satellite location established at Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) in 2023. Five Counties also offered some services at the Community Living Trent Highlands building in Haliburton in 2022 and 2023.

“We know that early intervention – especially when it comes to how a child talks or walks – is so important to help kids reach their full potential,” Pepin said. “Parents and caregivers are dealing with so much



HHHS' site in Minden will serve as Five Counties Children's Care new home in Haliburton County. *File.*

already if their child has been diagnosed or identified with unique needs that impact their development. That's why making it easier for families to get the help they need, when they need it, in their own community, is so essential.”

Eekhof said Five Counties would continue to use the space at ASES for physiotherapy services and its school-based rehabilitation program.

Another service

HHHS president and CEO Veronica Nelson said Five Counties is a great addition to the

Minden site.

It follows previous enhancements introduced since the ER was shuttered last summer, such as the urgent care clinic operated by the Kawartha North Family Health Team, and the community nursing clinic co-run by HHHS, SE Health, ParaMed Home Health Care, and Home and Community Care Support Services.

Nelson said, “HHHS is delighted to welcome Five Counties back into our building... their dedication to the community through therapy and treatment services to support children with physical,

developmental, and communication needs is inspiring.”

Nelson said HHHS still had space to co-locate services in Minden and would entertain potential partnerships on a case-by-case basis.

“Health care in Ontario looks and feels very different than it did in the recent past. Not having access to care is not an option for our community. Thinking about health care in an innovative and collaborative way is critical for optimizing the wellbeing of Haliburton County,” Nelson said.



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Past Minden Rotary president Lynda Litwin at a charity event. *File.*

MINDEN HILLS NEWS

RotaryFest to move downtown

Minden Rotary came before council April 11 seeking to move its RotaryFest to the downtown.

President Dave Woodcroft said for the past two years, the club had held the event at the Minden Fairgrounds. It was created to celebrate Rotary's not-for-profit community partners, Woodcroft said.

He added, "after discussions in the club, and with local businesses, the decision was made to seek permission to hold the event in the town centre, in conjunction with the farmers and artisan markets, which are held each Saturday."

He said the aim is to provide entertainment and activities, and keep the focus in the core. They would hold the event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 17 and would want the street closed to vehicles from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to allow for set up and clean up before and after the event.

"We have canvassed the area merchants and they are overwhelmingly in favour of our event taking place on the street," he said. He noted the club would provide insurance.

He said some of the offerings could include: live music, a sidewalk sale, Crime Stopper jail, Huskies' slap shot and three-point hoops competition, face painting, sidewalk chalk art, ukulele lessons, a second-hand fashion show, soft axe throwing, paddleboards on the river if they can get insurance, a selfie booth, celebrity clowns and pictures, mini soap box races, and quilting and weaving displays.

Rotary said the festival could also involve local not-for-profits in some sort of "trade show" format.

They are now looking to enlist the help of groups to assist with some of the competitions, sponsorships from merchants not in the downtown, as well as for prizes. They will also contact summer camps and lake associations.

Coun. Pam Sayne said she was "very supportive of this. I'm excited. I want to be there, so see you soon."

A report on the proposed road closure will come back to council's April 25 meeting.

Donate empties to charity

Manager of waste facilities, Chelsea Cosh, said the township received interest from four groups looking to benefit from a bottle return program at landfills and transfer stations.

Snowflake Meadows Rescue Centre and Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association; Places for People; the Minden Hills Firefighters Association; and U-Links and Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning (FEEL) all applied to take part.

However, since all expressed interest in Scotch Line, "to ensure fairness, transparency, and an equitable process, staff completed a random online draw to determine the assignment of waste disposal sites," Cosh said.

The manager said P4P expressed a sole interest in the Scotch Line landfill but were not selected. "Staff reached out to thank Places for People for their interest, as well as their contributions to the community. It is hoped they will consider this opportunity again in the future."

She said Snowflake Meadows Rescue Centre and Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association were selected for the Scotch Line landfill; U-Links and FEEL for the Ingoldsby transfer station; and the Minden Hills Firefighters Association for Little Gull and Iron Mine transfer stations.

Cosh said staff will buy a storage shed for each site, and signs will be installed to promote which organization the proceeds are collected by.

Coun. Ivan Ingram was particularly happy to see Snowflake Meadows Rescue Centre chosen, saying they do a lot of work for the community at no cost to the township. Sayne also lauded the "understated" work of Walkabout Farm and was happy to see support for both organizations via the bottle return program.

Village green to get makeover

Candace McGuigan, director of community services, said the town received four compliant bids to replace the walkway at the Village Green parkette in downtown Minden.

She recommended council award the job to Young's Construction Limited, for \$134,938 plus HST.

She said work will include traffic control, environmental protection measures, removal and disposal of the existing walkway; construction of a decorative-patterned concrete walkway, grading, and drainage improvements.

She anticipated the work would be done between mid-April and mid-June. (*Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais.*)



The new weigh scale at Maple Lake landfill has been called a game-changer by Algonquin Highlands. *Submitted.*

AH scales up Maple Lake landfill

By Mike Baker

Operations at the Maple Lake landfill in Algonquin Highlands were brought into the 21st century this month following the unveiling of a new weigh scale – the first in Haliburton County.

The project had been in the works for around six years, according to Melissa Murray, the township's environmental manager. The scale was a key component of a \$1.5 million investment at Maple Lake, which included the construction of a new operations centre, which opened last summer.

The scale cost \$135,000 to buy and install, with \$100,000 funded through Ontario's municipal modernization program and \$35,000 from municipal reserves.

"A lot of people have been asking when the scale would be installed – there's been a lot of buzz since this was announced," Murray said.

Initial discussions were held in 2018, with the township's previous council giving Murray the green light to investigate. The scale was approved in 2020, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Murray spent two years getting quotes and ensuring technical studies required for the scale's installation were complete.

Prep work began at the scale location in the

fall of 2022. It became operational April 3.

Murray said the scale is a game-changer for ensuring there are accurate waste counts at Maple Lake moving forward, noting all Algonquin Highlands taxpayers will benefit.

"We've always had a disconnect between the amount of materials we received and the amount of materials we haul out. It always cost us more than we were receiving, because we charged by volume, using cubic yards, while now we charge strictly by weight. So, there's no disparity," Murray said. "The addition of this scale has made this a more equitable system for everyone."

Under the old system, Murray said items that were small but heavy, or had been soaked with rain, were regularly undercharged, while things like insulation, which can be bulky but with little weight, usually overcharged.

She said before, around 50 per cent of items shipped to other landfills outside the County weren't adequately covered by disposal charges, so fell on the township.

"It basically became part of our tax levy – all residents had to pay," she said. Asked for a dollar amount, Murray said that's difficult to quantify as the township has changed its tracking data and processes in recent years.

Residents won't be charged for dropping off household garbage, scrap metal, and blue box

recyclables – but bulky waste, construction and demolition waste, and furniture will be charged 22 cents per kilogram, or \$220 per tonne, with a minimum charge of \$15. Brush, leaves, mulch, wood chips and yard waste can be disposed of for \$110 per tonne.

Murray was at Maple Lake April 3 for the scale's unveiling and spoke with several residents who stopped by, with the response mostly positive.

While Algonquin Highlands might be the first township in the County to incorporate weigh scales at a landfill, it won't be the last. Chelsea Cosh, manager of waste facilities in Minden Hills, said a recently approved re-design of the Scotch Line landfill will implement scales. John Watson, environmental manager in Dysart et al, said there are tentative plans for a scale at the Haliburton landfill.

There could be more to come in Algonquin Highlands, too.

"It's always in the back of our mind from a planning perspective – we'll see how things go at Maple Lake," Murray said. "Pine Springs and Oxtongue Lake don't receive enough material to justify having a scale there – but the Dorset Transfer Station, while a small site, could be a nice location."

For more information on new disposal fees at Maple Lake, visit algonquinhighlands.ca.

A MESSAGE FROM



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We are happy to congratulate our two winners, Savannah M. and Heather C., each receiving \$250 worth of gift certificates to their choice of the businesses participating.

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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Spare an hour or more?

Sometimes, I wish I was retired.

Of course, I don't want to speed up my aging process. In fact, I'd like to slow it down. Like many, I'd sign up for the Benjamin Button program – he of reversed aging – going from old to young rather than the other way around.

But I digress. I guess that's what aging does to a person.

While I like the money that comes with full-time work, I don't like the trade-off of lack of time and energy.

You see, I'd really like to volunteer more. However, the hours spent on my craft make it prohibitive. The other tricky thing is, because I am a journalist, I have to be careful of appearing to be too close to any non-profits, or charities, lest I be accused of bias.

At the moment, I'm not really doing much, other than the public service that some say small-town reporters and photographers do.

The only 'volunteer' shift I have put in so far this year is a bit of time at the Minden Cat Angels. After interviewing founder Don Kerr a few years back, and seeing what he was doing with such a small team of helpers, I couldn't hold back.

The gig is not onerous. I did not have to go through oodles of training. Really, all I have to do is let Don know I am coming. Usually that means a Friday visit for an hour or so. All Don ever wants me to do is socialize kittens, to get them familiar with people, so there is a chance of adopting them out.

This I can do. I get to sit on the floor and try to coax kittens to come out and play. How hard is that? Even though I don't have much time – well hardly any – an hour here and there is appreciated by the cats and Don. And when I see that a kitten has been adopted, I feel a sense of satisfaction.

When I retire, I plan to do a whole lot more volunteering. For now, I'll do what I can. An hour here. An hour there. It helps me, and my mental health, as much as it does the Minden Cat Angels and Don.

As we celebrate national volunteer work, I do worry about the future of volunteering in Haliburton County, and across Canada.

Volunteer Canada put out some sobering recent stats; including that more than 55 per cent of charities have fewer volunteers than before COVID. More than 41 per cent are highly concerned about attracting volunteers.



By Lisa Gervais

Forty-two per cent are highly concerned about volunteer burnout.

Since the pandemic, the numbers are even worse with a 74 per cent increase in demand for non-profit services in 2022; 67 per cent of volunteer organizations running short on volunteers; 51 per cent struggling to retain volunteers; and 42 per cent struggling in securing long-term volunteer roles.

In Haliburton County, where volunteerism is our lifeblood, this is a very worrying trend indeed.

If you have any free time, be it an hour a week, or much more, we'd encourage you to go to the volunteer fair in Minden May 1 and keep your eye out for other opportunities.

Your time is desperately needed and will be exceedingly appreciated. And don't forget, it can be just as good for you as the charity or non-profit you are helping.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Living into my fullest life

How much risk should I anticipate having in my life at the age of 70, 80, 95, 100 years and beyond?

That may sound odd, yet we have conditioned ourselves to eliminate risk, to seemingly survive longer, yet is that really living life to its fullest?

As a parent and retired elementary school principal, I find that in our school system, safety is number one. Yes, it is to protect children, but more realistically to protect the system - and protect us from legal action due to poor safety policies.

I question this, in part due to today's "trigger happy" litigation extremism adopted to protect ourselves. But, how have these restrictive decisions impacted the resilience of our children today and their future mental health?

It has certainly stopped the growth of seniors in institutions. It has limited our development of skills and strategies that build resilience to overcome barriers as we age.

We build skills from an early age to take on all facets of life. These skills are referred to as resilience. The word resilience has become a prominent word used in our daily lives, referring to children functioning, and more importantly, not functioning, in a very rapidly

changing world.

Sometimes they get physically and emotionally left behind because of the over-guidance and over-protection that has been put in place to care for them. It stops them from growing and experiencing things on higher levels. Without experiencing success, loss, and failure, we limit the ability to experience life to its fullest. This, in turn, will help us decide how much we need to plan and build upon, to enable us to grow and thrive inside of the world we create for ourselves.

Digging deeper, I see the limitations we have brought upon ourselves by building long-term care home policies on that same premise; the limiting of risk due to the fear of corporate and personal litigation when something goes wrong.

We need strong safety policies and procedures to protect our youth and our seniors within institutional systems. Yet, what is the "tipping point" determining the cutting off of healthy risk taking? I believe we have passed it. We limit personal movement, involvement, exploration, inquiry and more, experiences that bring people happiness, joy, and self-worth.

Whether or not you practise high-risk adventures, we all face risk every day. Living

and experiencing success, as well as failure, contributes to our overall well-being. We cannot live happily, or have complete lives, without the possibility of risk.

We need to feel safe so we're open to learning. To be able to think on higher levels, we need the security and knowledge that we are out of harm's way. To have a voice, one needs to trust the environment that one is living inside of. We need to learn our own limitations and begin to expand them beyond our comfort zone. If not, life becomes mundane and boring. We need to discover our passions which only appear inside experience. It becomes our responsibility to share our "risk-taking comfort zone" with those to whom we entrust our care.

Restricting peoples' risk-taking, below their risk tolerance, can have a negative impact. It can close down human personal growth and lead to anxiety and depression.

How much risk-taking should I anticipate? As much risk that lands within my comfort zone and, with support, allows me to continue to reach out, grow and live to my fullest at any age, even 101.



By Peter Ferri



SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Email your photos to editor@thehighlander.ca

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Fred Pyziak sent this photo of “our chippy is out of hibernation... spring is here.”

LETTERS

Environmentally-minded

Dear editor,

Loved the photo of John Watson in the April 11 *Highlander*.

He’s the most dedicated, enthusiastic, and committed environmentally-minded landfill supervisor since Mark Brohm.

It was as if it offended Mark personally if people threw away perfectly usable goods, and he saved them from ignominy by asking me if I would like a ‘50s patio table, and things like that.

He kindly gave me four stained glass windows that were thrown out for reasons I can’t imagine. They now hang, framed in wood from my deck and obscuring a storage area from view.

He was an early re-user, recycler before it was mandatory, and from our brief dealings, I know John Watson is too, and having been inspired by his ideas, I just dropped off yards of material that I’ve had for years, given to me by my mother who couldn’t sew either.

Anne-Marie Borthwick
Haliburton

Find the chair

Dear editor,

I feel John Trimble’s pain in the letter in the April 4 *Highlander* regarding the disposal of a broken lawn chair and the \$10 fee.

I encountered the same thing about a year ago. I take about a half-bag of garbage and recyclables to the Scotch Line dump once a week. So, what did I do? I cut it up with a skill saw and put a couple of pieces in the next few weeks’ bags.

It’s like the fable of a businessperson who buys a needed umbrella on a business trip. They expense it and it gets rejected. They resubmit their expense report without the umbrella but with the same total. A note on the bottom reads “find the umbrella.” Problem solved.

I say that, but not really. That is why people illegally dump garbage at the side of rural roads or burn things that shouldn’t be burned.

As a retired person who lives on a lake, and pays a substantial tax bill, I ask myself what am I getting for my taxes if I can’t get rid of a broken lawn chair? How is that construction waste? As humans, we generate garbage, unfortunately too much of it. So, our governments, all of them, need to help guide us with this problem. Adding more fees for small item disposal isn’t the solution.

Paul Hewitt
Minden

The Highlander welcomes all contributions, however we wish to remind readers of the following:
Letters to the editor policy

- Letters should be exclusive to *The Highlander*. We do not publish letters also addressed to other media outlets, open letters, letters to third parties, or cc’d letters.
- Letters must be signed with first and last name and home town. We also need an address and phone number for verification. The address and phone number won’t be published. We do not run anonymous letters.
- Letters must be a maximum of 300 words. If submitted at greater length, they will be returned for editing.
- *The Highlander* may still edit for length and clarity.
- *The Highlander* has the right not to publish letters.

Minden abuzz over Bee City designation

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills council gave Chelsea Cosh, its manager of waste facilities, the green light April 11 to complete a Bee City Canada application to designate the township a Bee City.

Council also supported the celebration of national pollinator week, annually held the third week of June.

Founded in 2016, Bee City Canada is a federally-recognized charitable organization with the goal to educate Canadians about the importance of pollinators and to inspire action to ensure pollinator habitat protection.

Cosh said it supports collaborative efforts of communities and organizations committed to helping pollinators by offering four designations: Bee Cities, Bee Partners, Bee Schools and Bee Campuses.

"Bee City Canada's mission is to recognize and support municipalities, Indigenous communities, campuses, schools, and other organizations that are taking action to protect and promote pollinators," Cosh said.

She added, "they offer programs which recognize communities and organizations that are taking steps or are committed to future initiatives to help pollinators."

Cosh noted pollinator species worldwide are at an increasing risk of population decline due to habitat loss, climate change, pesticides and pest diseases. Since plants form the building blocks of all ecosystems, disruption to their pollination and subsequent reproduction is likely to result in a decline

in plant species diversity, and can adversely affect animals and birds that rely on them.

Pollinators play a critical role in maintaining healthy native plant communities and in ensuring that flowering plants produce seeds. In addition, these pollinators play a significant role in crop production, Cosh told council.

She said the Bee City designation "is an annual commitment a municipality can make to ensure that pollinators are protected, and recognizes the municipality's efforts towards pollinator protection."

Currently, there are 82 Bee Cities in Canada with 44 in Ontario.

"The Bee City Canada designation builds upon existing initiatives and can establish new approaches and partnerships that advance numerous municipal objectives," Cosh added.

She said to qualify for the title, a municipality has to create and conserve habitat, and educate and promote healthy, sustainable habitat for pollinators. They must also mark national pollinators week.

She added that staff have to oversee the programs, and she thinks this can be done in-house.

One staff member, let's call them a queen bee, would be the key liaison, who would then create a pollinator team. It costs \$150-a-year for resources. There is also commitment to creating and maintaining habitat, and public education.

Cosh noted it would not just be about



The Minden Riverwalk has had pollinator gardens placed in recent years.

Photo by Lisa Gervais.

council, but getting the community onboard to do things such as establishing their own pollinator gardens and becoming involved in environmental stewardship.

Some of her ideas include: planting wildflowers and native seeds for landfill final cover, creating pollinator gardens or a wildflower meadow at township parks, properties, land, etc., a pollinator week kids colouring contest, Bee a Hero garden challenge (create a pollinator habitat in your own backyard), wildflower seed packet giveaway, collaboration with Archie Stouffer Elementary School on pollinator initiatives; look at possibilities to collaborate with local groups and expand involvement.

"The Bee City designation will recognize

the township as a leader in biodiversity protection and set an example for surrounding municipalities," Cosh said. She added it "offers the opportunity to effectively engage residents with Minden Hills' natural environment and help the township achieve sustainability."

Councillors were abuzz over the prospect. Coun. Pam Sayne commented, "I'm really pleased to see this coming forward. People are probably saying, 'we're such a rural area, why is this an issue?' but if we don't put these in place, we're going to be paved over in no time. To see these kinds of initiatives coming now, and put in place for our long-term development, is really nice to see."

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Ross to be king of Castle in Haliburton

By Mike Baker

When Don Ross was draped over a map earlier this year planning a route for a 10-show concert series with fellow musician, Kent Nishimura, he knew he wanted to close things out in Haliburton County.

One of the country’s most prominent and prolific fingerstyle guitarists, Ross returns to the Highlands April 20 – taking to the stage at The Music Room in Haliburton. It’s the same spot Ross admits to having been “blown away” by six months earlier, in October, when a raucous sold-out crowd made him feel at home performing in the County.

“It’s really quite a beautiful location – I enjoyed playing there. It’s a great space. Nestled in an antiques store, with memorabilia all around, it kind of feels voluminous and yet intimate at the same time,” Ross said, recalling how vintage items like an old piano and gramophone helped create a “nice vibe” for his show.

“When I’m planning these shows, I try to decide where I’ve played that I enjoyed, that the people enjoyed, and where it might not be too soon to play again – I remember thinking, after my last show, ‘this has been great, I need to get back here again soon’, so here I am,” Ross added.

Forging his own style and technique that incorporates blues, jazz, folk, and classical music, Ross describes

himself as a heavy wood musician. He drew inspiration from acts like Bruce Cockburn, John Renbourn, Keith Jarrett, and Pat Metheny.

Most of Ross’ playlist is original work pulled from the 18 studio albums he’s produced over a career spanning five decades, the most recent *Water* – released last year.

Describing his sound and approach to music, Ross said being a composer first, and guitarist second, has helped.

“I wouldn’t call myself a guitar-head – I realized when I was quite young that the best way to showcase what I was doing as a composer was to get as good as I possibly could on at least one instrument,” Ross said. “Now, a lot of people think of me as one of the important personalities in the finger-style guitar world.”

Playing finger-style means Ross uses his digits, rather than a pick, to make his instrument purr. By utilizing that method, Ross said it allows him to treat his guitar more like a piano – creating some unique sounds and melodies.

“It’s not the way most people play... it’s akin to the way classical guitarists play, except you’re playing modern, popular music,” he said.

Ross said he’s excited to share the stage with Nishimura, a 21-year-old Japanese finger-style guitarist.

“It’ll be a completely different show

this time – Kent is really fond of the jazz rock era. Acts like Steely Dan, The Doobie Brothers, and Stevie Wonder. That kind of late 70s/early 80s sound,” he said.

Asked how a 63-year-old Canadian artist came to collaborate with a young up-and-comer from Asia, Ross said, “his manager is an old friend of mine who helped broker my first tour in Japan in 2000. He discovered Kent at a young age and has been helping him. Before the pandemic, we were talking about me working with Kent in Canada, and we’re finally getting that done now.”

It’ll be a nice chance for Ross to reconnect with Mark Christiano and Craig Titus – founders of The Music Room – too. Ross said he’d worked with Christiano before when he was presenting shows from his property in Carnarvon, while he remembers Titus from when he worked at Metalworks Studio in Mississauga.

“I think Craig was there when I recorded an album at Metalworks with another guitarist – we got to use the same room that Prince used to make his *Musicology* record... that was a big thing for me,” Ross said.

Tickets are available online for \$35. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the show starting at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit donrossonline.com.



Finger-style guitarist Don Ross is performing in Haliburton April 20. Submitted.



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A glimpse into winter in Algonquin Highlands

By Lisa Gervais

Elizabeth Johnson says it was the Strada Easel challenge that got her painting gangbusters again this past winter.

“Every January, the Strada Easel company challenges international artists to do a painting from life every day and post it on social media,” Johnson told an audience at Pizza on Earth April 14.

Her exhibition this past Sunday featured 65 oil paintings done this year on location throughout Haliburton, Muskoka, and in particular, her village of Dorset.

It offered a glimpse into what winter in Algonquin Highlands is like. The event featured live music by pianist, Sarah Spring, and a talk from the plein air landscape painter.

Johnson said the victor of the challenge can win a free easel, and “there is always a shred of hope that I’ll win that fancy easel, even though the likelihood is nil.”

However, she said that’s not the reason she paints outside in winter.

“I paint in winter because it is quiet. We Johnsons have only two seasons; pizza season, and its extreme opposite - the quiet season.

“The conditions for painting are optimal; no bugs, no tourists, minimal schedules, silence, solitude, and tons of inspiring scenery, all to myself. The only inconvenience is that it is cold. But I have nicely solved that problem with the discovery of electric socks.”

She added that come November every year, she crams a year’s worth of painting into the non-pizza-making months.

She prefers doing so outside.

“At my boathouse studio at home, I find all kinds of excuses to stall painting. I am suddenly hungry, sleepy and preoccupied with domestic chores. Out in nature, everything has to happen quickly, the light or the weather can suddenly change. When the light changes, colour vanishes, shapes disappear and the mood can shift. Then, I am in trouble if I haven’t quickly established these elements right off the bat.”

Some days the inspiration is not there and Johnson said it’s time for a “verbal boot in the pants.” She puts on the coat her daughter discarded 20 years ago, perylene red ski pants, cadmium orange construction worker gloves, daisy-decorated rubber boots, a knobby-knitted wool hat that once “belonged to a Velma,” and a rejected Pizza on Earth apron.

She reckons she has three to five hours of painting before turning into a block of ice.


She prefers big brushes and sweeping, energetic strokes, “especially here in the north where everything is bulging with greatness: the towering white pines, the expanse of frozen lake, the soaring granite cliffs, the infinite quiet, punctuated occasionally by the reverberating ring of the head-banging woodpecker.”

She added last weekend, “I do not think of myself as an artist, no more than you are,” she said. “I am driven to do good work with my hands - winter and summer. Both are important. All of us have the job of making the world a little bit more pleasant and beautiful.”



Elizabeth Johnson painting on Raven Lake in Dorset. Submitted.

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AGING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

Key Findings from Community Research on Aging

From January - March 2024, Aging Together as Community worked with researcher Kat Schouten and U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research to understand the strengths and challenges of aging in Haliburton County. Below is a summary of the methods and findings of the research.

Background

In Haliburton County there is a growing aging population who are looking for resources that will allow them to age in place and age healthily. Aging Together as Community, was formed to mobilize Haliburton County in conversations around aging, fighting ageism and co-creating community supports for seniors.

Research Questions

1. What existing services/resources are currently available to seniors in Haliburton County?
2. What are the challenges seniors face in accessing and utilizing the available services/resources they need to age healthy?

Methods

In Depth Interviews: 9 In-Depth Interviews: 40 minutes in length and conducted with seniors. They spoke about their experience aging here as well as their roles as care partners and services providers in the community.

Survey 1: Seniors: 164 Respondents: This survey was launched and distributed at the Aging Together as Community Conference on January 27th. All respondents live full time in Haliburton County.

Survey 2: Service Providers: 14 Respondents: This survey was launched and distributed through the Aging Together as Community Steering Committee and shared with service providers in the county.

3 Key Findings

i. Why Age Here?

Even as the list of challenges continues to extend, these are three main pillars of why people want to age in Haliburton County.

1. **Welcoming & Friendly Community**
2. **Many Organizations to Get Involved With**
3. **The Natural Environment**

"This was always a very responsive community. When something happened - if there was a flooding. The whole community would come together to help and that is a wonderful thing. It made a very powerful impact on us – it's what kept us here and it's what keeps us here." – Senior, Haliburton County

ii. Asset Based Map

Throughout the interviews and surveys, over 300 community 'assets' were documented. An asset is a service, event, club, organization or place that a senior uses to age healthy physically and mentally.

Asset Maps Categories

Arts & Culture · Care Partner Supports · Events · Health Care Resources · Organizations · Physical Activities · Support Services · Volunteering Opportunities

iii. Challenges for Aging

1. Affordability & Isolation: Haliburton has some of the highest rates of poverty and with rising costs seniors with lower incomes are experiencing high barriers to access the necessities for healthy aging.

2. Social Connection: Many seniors are deeply engaged in the social activities in Haliburton County, however, this is not true for everyone. Getting involved helps to make sure that people are connected to their communities and helps them know where to turn when they need help. Without this connection many are lost.

3. Health Care: The lucky few with access to a family doctor rave about their great experiences. Those without doctors, try to figure out how they can avoid the healthcare system as much as possible. When PSWs or specialists are needed, they are inaccessible leaving seniors, care partners and neighbours struggling to fill in the gaps.

4. End of Life Planning: Seniors want to understand their options when it comes to having a good death and want the tools to have end of life planning discussions with their families, especially around MAID.

5. Housing & Neighbourliness: Seniors who want to age at home struggle to find supports to age in place. Neighbours who used to help with small tasks around the home, seem to not have time anymore and paid supports are unreliable. Seniors want to understand what types of housing are available to them and understand if there are alternative housing models to support them in aging healthily.

6. Transportation: 'We are still okay because we can drive', was a common statement from seniors. As soon as seniors lose their ability to drive, their ability to socialize, access groceries and access healthcare declines quickly. There is a need for consistent, affordable and accessible transportation options.

7. Mobility & Accessibility: As seniors become less mobile, some of their favourite businesses, public spaces and events start to become inaccessible as they aren't designed for wheelchairs or for safe walking. Seniors dream of towns that are walkable, accessible and fall proof through all the seasons.



Want to Get Involved?

Join Aging Together as Community's Mailing List or Facebook Group Today!

- Email: agingtogetherhc@gmail.com
- Facebook: [Aging Together - Haliburton Highlands](#)



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Energizing County-wide strategy around volunteering

By Lisa Gervais

If you're new to Haliburton County – recently retired but now looking for something meaningful to do with your free time – you might want to plug May 1 into your calendar.

The Haliburton Highlands Volunteer Coalition is holding a volunteer engagement fair at the Minden Community Centre from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Brigitte Gebauer, volunteer coordinator for HHHS, is coalition lead. It's made up of people from a variety of organizations that rely on volunteers.

The event comes on the heels of National Volunteer Week and Gebauer said they wanted to capitalize on the momentum by holding the fair about six weeks earlier this year.

Gebauer said there continues to be a dearth of volunteers, a trend that started before COVID and has continued. She added it isn't just in Haliburton County.

“Volunteer Canada is trying to spark a national strategy around volunteering. Australia just put a 10-year plan into place and Ireland put a five-year plan into place a couple of years ago. So, on a national level, the rates are significantly down on volunteering.”

She said stats have been declining in the last 10 years. “So, there's a significant pressure on all of the organizations that utilize volunteers and I think nationally, we're starting to recognize that, and that's the basis of forming this coalition as well... to try to bring the visibility up and to put some energy behind creating a countywide strategy around volunteering.”

She noted the County of Haliburton and HCDC are financially contributing to the May 1 event, and Mulligans is donating refreshments. She said there would be approximately 30 employers on hand.

Gebauer said a lack of volunteers greatly impacts the



Brigitte Gebauer and her coalition are looking for some good people. *File.*

community. At HHHS, for example, she said they don't have enough helpers for long-term care or to do friendly visiting in the community. She added they are down on community drivers, having to tell people who have out-of-town medical appointments they cannot always take them. “That's really tough.”

However, the coalition hopes to capitalize on new Highlanders.

“I think, collectively, the group is thinking ‘we've got this crop of new folks in the area. Often, it takes a year or two to settle in. And then, all of a sudden you start looking around, asking ‘what can I do and how do I keep myself busy?’ Those are the folks that we're hoping show up.”

She added, “this County runs on volunteers. It's the backbone of the County.”

If interested in a booth, contact Gebauer 705-457-1392 ext. 2927 or bgebauer@hhhs.ca or Andrea Mueller 705-457-1740 ext. 635 or amueller@dysartetal.ca.



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Volunteer sign-up workshop April 25

Minden Hills is having a volunteer sign-up workshop April 25, 4-6 p.m., in the Welch room of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre at 176 Bobcaygeon Rd.

The township said students are strongly encouraged to attend. No pre-registration is required. “You will learn about the volunteer roles available across the township, and you will receive instructions and assistance to complete the volunteer application package. Have your personal information ready in advance, including address history, and bring a mobile device, such as a laptop or tablet if possible. Alternatively, limited computers will be available on site,” the town said.

For more information, visit the township’s webpage: mindenhills.ca.



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The Highlander supports our community volunteers

Mott: 20-year volunteer

By Mike Baker

Ken Mott remembers what it was like before Wilberforce had a food bank.

People were struggling, often turning to family, friends, and neighbours to put food on the table. This was pre-2002. Before two local women started a movement that still stands strong today.

Chris Foster-London and Clara Burt ushered in a new era in Highlands East. Their grassroots initiative, where they would anonymously leave food and money on the doorstep of families they knew to be struggling, took hold. They started a part-time operation at the outreach centre in Highland Grove - the community's first real food bank.

Mott was one of the early beneficiaries. "I had a heart attack and was in the hospital for a while. When I got home, there was a cheque for \$50 and food sitting on my table these two ladies had dropped off. I decided I wanted to be a part of this, do my bit and

help wherever I could," he said. That was a little over 20 years ago. Mott is now recognized as one of the longest tenured volunteer with Central Food Network – the organization that runs the food banks in Wilberforce and Cardiff. It's now a "well-oiled machine", said Mott – who manages the food hub in Wilberforce, and its community cooks program. But it wasn't always that way. For the first couple of years, Mott said the food bank relied on community donations. He would get calls from Ontario Works, telling him there was food somewhere that he could go pick up, so he'd hit the road. Mott did his job with a smile on his face, realizing the difference he was making. Highlands East township got involved in the early 2010s. The township donated land behind Lloyd Watson Memorial Arena, and the food bank was opened in late 2015. It's open two days per week – on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. People are welcomed inside, given a shopping cart, and left to roam for non-perishable foods. Milk, produce, and meats are also available from the food banks' fridge and freezer. Mott said the food bank is busier than it has ever been – it's not uncommon for him to find 10 people lined up at the door on days they're open. He said around 30 people will stop by during opening hours, from 1 to 3 p.m. "The price of everything has gone up, so it's no wonder people are struggling. And with the struggle comes extra demand, extra dependency on the food bank," Mott said. Mott spends multiple days a week at the food bank, helping to sort and put away food, while he also assists with the delivery program. Asked what has kept him going these past 20-plus years, Mott said it's always been about the people. "Seeing the smiles on faces when they're walking out the door – for me, that's what it's all about. Making a difference one person at a time," Mott said.



Ken Mott has been volunteering at the Wilberforce Food Bank since its inception in 2002. Photo by Mike Baker.



The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) helps maintain and enhance local fisheries in Haliburton County. Its mission is to help residents and visitors to our County enjoy angling and other outdoor activities while practicing good conservation. Since 1998, the HHOA has raised and stocked over 800,000 fish in local lakes.

For more information on the HHOA visit www.hhoa.on.ca

VOLUNTEERS:

The HHOA is always looking for new volunteers to help at the hatchery and the stocking of our lakes. In addition, we need people with various skill sets to help us with all the activities within the HHOA and the hatchery and continue its valuable contributions to the Haliburton Highlands outdoors community. Some of the skills needed but are not limited to the following:

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- Social Media - Advertising and Marketing
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Highlands East theatre troupe resurrected

By Lisa Gervais

After overcoming some challenges, and a hiatus partially due to COVID, Highlands East has its theatre company back.

The Loop Troupe Little Theatre will hit the stage once again with two shows on the Mother's Day weekend, May 11-12.

"The future of the Loop Troupe Little Theatre group in Wilberforce had looked bleak," spokesperson, Mary Barker, said.

Their most prominent member, Hilda Clark, had passed away, and so had their favourite videographer, Doug Stephen. Sound and lighting man, Dan Linkert, was killed in a tragic automobile accident. Some of their senior actors had retired to nursing homes, and many others had moved away during the pandemic.

It looked like "curtains" for the troupe, Barker said.

However, there was a little bit of money in the theatre group's bank account that had to be dealt with. Treasurer, Gill Stephen, called a meeting in the spring of 2023. Barker said it was 30 years, almost to the month, after the inaugural troupe meeting in 1993.

Barker said Stephen told them to "use it or lose it. Resurrect the Loop Troupe or suggest



Aiden Smith is part of the Loop Troupe Little Theatre. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

some worthy organization to donate the money to."

Barker added, "not that the group begrudged giving the money away, but they knew how hard all those former troupers had worked to accumulate the little nest egg to finance its next play. The group knew they could cultivate the passion and talent of the community once again to carry on the vision of the founding troupers.

"In quick order, the Loop Troupe was enthusiastically resurrected," Barker said.

She volunteered to spearhead the revival and other helpers jumped onboard.

Aiden Smith created a Facebook presence. Linda Ladd researched and recovered much of the troupe's history, once thought to exist only in Clark's head. Matt Barnett offered to transfer Stephen's VHS performance to YouTube and stepped in to fill Linkert's shoes as the sound and lighting person.

Barker said, "lots of people joined up, some wanting to act, others offering backstage help. There was even enthusiasm for cleaning

out the old storage container that housed all the props and costumes."

Skit-oodles May 11-12

While there is "tons of enthusiasm," Barker said there isn't much theatre experience, so they thought it best not to plunge into the deep end. For their first performance, they will wade in by performing a collection of short skits, followed by a 30-minute play directed by Jan Dahms.

"Everyone who expressed interest in acting has a part to perform without having to sink or swim," Barker said.

She said rehearsals have been a lot of fun, and "there's not a dry eye by the end of the evening."

There will be two shows: Saturday, May 11 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, May 12, at 2 p.m., at the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce. Tickets are available at Agnew's General Store, Wilberforce and at the door. Adults \$10, youth (18 and under) \$5. Bring your loonies for the snack bar as everything is \$1.

"Those bucks will be used to replenish the little nest egg needed to finance the next play," Barker said.

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Food banks make splash with fundraiser

By Mike Baker

After successful inaugural events that saw more than a dozen County residents plunge into frigid water to raise money for the Minden Community Food Centre and Central Food Network (CFN) in Highlands East, the two organizations are teaming up for this year's Jump in the Lake fundraiser.

Friendly competition is the theme touted by Jean Munroe, manager of the Minden food bank, and Tina Jackson, executive director at CFN. The "fun" event will be happening across the Highlands May 4.

"Unlike a typical polar plunge, Jump in the Lake challenges participants to take a dip from wherever they choose – their own docks, a public beach, or heck, even a cold plunge tub," Munroe said.

She added there won't be a central gathering spot where people can jump, and the public will observe, noting there would be significant insurance costs to host a public event.

"We want every penny from this to go towards helping people in our communities," Munroe said.

Events last year raised \$3,500 in Minden and \$3,015 in Highlands East. Jackson said she reached out to Munroe earlier this year to partner on the initiative, in the hopes of drawing larger numbers.

Jackson said they're promoting the event as a way for friends, family, and local businesses to engage in some friendly competition.

"There's so many ways to get involved and push your fellow plungers – businesses can challenge other businesses, friends and family can challenge one another. I think it's a really fun way to do this," Jackson said, noting there will also be a competition between the two food banks, with the losing team donning rubber duck floats on their way into the water.

Costumes are encouraged, especially considering the event is being held on May 4 – universally accepted as *Star Wars* appreciation day.

Fundraisers like this are more important than ever, both Munroe and Jackson say, with demand at their food banks at an all-time high. Munroe said usage in Minden was up 35 per cent last year, and 27 per cent in 2022, with Jackson sharing a similar story in Highlands East, which reported a 37 per cent increase at locations in Cardiff and Wilberforce in 2023.

"We're having a tough time keeping up. We're getting new people through the door every day. We used to see, maybe, four new people per month. Now we're seeing four or five new people per day sometimes," Munroe said. "And the big thing is it's working people... between the high cost of rent and prices increasing for practically everything else, people don't know where to turn."

Horseshoe Lake resident Amanda Federchuk has been raising money for the Minden Community Food Centre by jumping into cold water for the past five years. She

caught onto the initiative after seeing how successful it had been in Coboconk, for the community's health hub. She's raised more than \$5,000 over the years.

"It's always such a thrill on that day. I'm lucky that I have a whole community that rallies around me, which always helps to get the adrenaline pumping pre-jump," Federchuk said. "Once you're in, it's a blast of cold. A bit of a shock to the system – it's definitely breathtaking, but it's all over in a minute or so."

"I tell people all the time – I'm pretty sure jumping in an ice-cold lake is good for your immune system. The water hits differently here. I always feel great right after."

To register as a participant, or to donate, visit mindencommunityfoodcentre.ca, or centralfoodnetwork.org.

May the fourth be with you

Highlands realtor Dean Michel is preparing for his fifth Jump in the Lake challenge, raising money for the Coboconk and area food bank.

In previous years, the event has served as a fundraiser for the Coboconk health hub - currently under construction. Since its inception in 2020, Jump in the Lake has raised over \$150,000. Michel noted this year's goal is \$20,000.

Leaning into the *Star Wars* theme, given the May 4 date, Michel encouraged the



Jean Munroe and Tina Jackson are both taking part in this year's Jump in the Lake fundraiser. Photo by Mike Baker.

community to get involved.

"This challenge embodies our strong community spirit. Year after year we are absolutely thrilled with how such a small action by a number of people has the ability to transform and inspire a small community," Michel said. "It's a lot of fun for a fantastic cause."

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County senior Ron Clark gets up close and personal with Gracie, one of the horses at Walkabout Farm. *Submitted.*



**ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS A BY-LAW
TO REMOVE A HOLDING SYMBOL**

**VACANT LAND AT HIGHWAY 35 AND COUNTY ROAD 21
(PLRZH2024022; RELATED APPLICATION PLOZA2020049)**

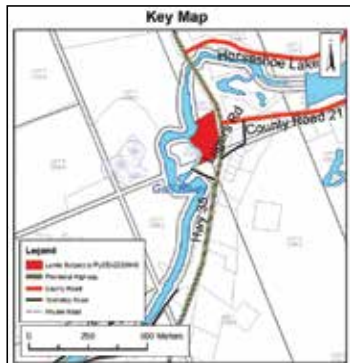
TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills has received an application to amend the Township's Zoning By-law No. 06-10 for the removal of a Holding (H) Symbol pursuant to Section 36 of the Planning Act, RSO 1990, Chpt. P. 13, as amended. The site-specific amendment applies to vacant land located west of Highway 35 at County Road 21 (see Key Map below).

AND TAKE NOTICE that Council for The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills may make a decision to pass the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment to remove the Holding (H) symbol **no earlier than the May 9, 2024**, meeting of Council, held at the Municipal Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario, but may consider the amendment at a later date.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The subject property is presently zoned Residential Type Two Exception Fifteen Hold (R2-15 (H)). The purpose of the application is to remove the Holding (H) symbol and allow for the development of the property in accordance with the underlying Zoning, R2-15, approved through By-law 21-68 of application PLOZA2020049 to permit development of the site in the form of 36 dwelling units. The Holding (H) provision required MTO clearance and site plan approval.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street on Monday to Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Amanda Dougherty
Manager of Planning Services
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359
Minden, ON, K0M 2K0
Tel. (705) 286-1260 ext. 506



LTC homes REAP rewards from Walkabout

By Mike Baker

Having established her equine-based learning and emotional support program at Minden's Walkabout Farm, owner Jennifer Semach is preparing to take her horses on the road to support the County's senior population.

Located on 100 acres along Spring Valley Road, the farm specializes in providing support for people with varying levels of developmental and physical disabilities, mental health issues, and loneliness. Now in its sixth year, programming at Walkabout has blossomed – with around 800 visits in 2022 and 2023.

That number would have been higher last year had Semach not been forced to close the farm for five months while she dealt with a serious illness. Fully healthy again, Semach said she has an even greater desire to expand the farm's footprint.

Beginning next month, she will be taking a selection of miniature horses into Hyland Crest, Highland Wood, and Extendicare Haliburton long-term care facilities for weekly visits.

"It's something that's always been in the back of my mind – my grandmother had Alzheimer's and lived in long-term care for almost a decade. I know the benefits of using animals to reach the depths of a person's mind, just to give them that little spark – I've seen it happen," she said.

Through the new Recreational Equine Assisted Participation (REAP) program, Semach said horses will provide full sensory engagement for seniors. Sessions will be hosted indoors on Fridays at one of the LTC facilities, or on-site at Walkabout Farm.

"Movement through grooming, leading, holding, hugging, or petting horses activates the autonomic nervous system and releases endorphins brought about by physical activity, thereby lifting someone's mood and contributing to a sense of well-being," Semach said.

Like all of Walkabout's other programs, REAP will be free to participants.

Semach said the program is already turning heads – long-term care centres in Lindsay and Bobcaygeon have reached out, wanting to get involved, while Semach has been invited to speak at a June Aging Together as Community conference at the Pinestone focusing on how to deal with dementia in rural communities.

There are other new additions – Semach is partnering with Shellie Preston, a mental health clinician, for weekly group session workshops through July and August designed for children and young adults dealing with anxiety and other diagnoses like autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and behaviour disorders.

There will still be regular programming year-round for established visitors – Semach said she has a group of 60 people who visit the farm at least once per week.

Annual running costs are pegged at around \$85,000 – Semach said she and a small group of volunteers managed to fundraise \$114,000 in 2023. Any leftover money is reinvested into the farm, mostly to improve accessibility, she said.

Walkabout Farm received a \$50,000 grant from the Quebec-based Chamamdy Foundation this year, with the money to be used to construct a new 32x14 foot building fitted with hydro to accommodate indoor learning. Semach said she's applied for \$170,000 in Ontario Trillium Foundation funding to pay for a tractor, to make the farm more accessible in the winter, upgrade equipment, and construct washrooms.

"This is my calling – people, kids in particular, are struggling big time with their mental health. We're trying to be a reliable resource for families, here whenever we're needed to provide that extra layer of support," Semach said.

For more information, visit walkaboutfarmtra.com.

**For breaking news, visit
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ARC sets sail as new name unveiled

By Lisa Gervais

Abbey Retreat Centre announced April 13 it is changing its name.

At a 'No One Dances Alone' fundraiser at the Haliburton Legion, executive director Barb Smith-Morrison said it will now be known as Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre.

She said it took four months of "listening, creativity, engaging discussions and discernment and so much community support" to come up with the new moniker.

Smith-Morrison said the name is inspired by the two 'singing' brooks on either side of the retreat centre "that evoke a sense of deep connection with nature, calm and flowing energy, and the stories or songs that each one of us have to tell about our lives."

She said the new name reflects the "beautiful" location and peacefulness retreat participants experience.

Chair of the ARC board of directors., Lynda Shephard, added, "this name provides a great foundation to move forward as we continue to create a legacy-making and life-changing impact for future participants facing a cancer diagnosis."

Shephard said while they share the grounds with Abbey Gardens and have a close working relationship with them, they are two different organizations and their new name will help remove confusion in the community and help both organizations grow.

Located in Haliburton, the centre provides a variety of in-person and online retreats and programs that offer "renewal, companionship, and evidence-informed practices that tend body, mind, and soul in the midst of a cancer diagnosis," Smith-Morrison said.

"We are unique in our approach, which includes support people or caregivers who also find solace and community with people who are going through the same challenging cancer experience."



Above: Board members Thea Patterson and Michelle Adlam serve chili.
Right: Albert Saxby warms up the crowd. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

Although there are no fees associated with participating in one of the retreats or online gatherings, Smith-Morrison said it takes a generous and caring community to financially support programs. "We are grateful to all who contribute financially and to our volunteers, who ensure no one walks alone through a cancer experience."

Last Friday, local bands, the priMates and Adverse Conditions, donated their time to a fundraiser that featured a 50/50 draw, silent auction, baking, a chili dinner and dancing.

Founder John Patterson said, "working alongside a group of dedicated community volunteers, Thea and I were honoured to help in the creation of the Abbey Retreat Centre in 2016. We are thrilled to see how much it has grown and look forward to watching Brooksong expand into our next phase, while continuing the goal of the transformation and strengthening of whole-person cancer care."



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Kids enjoy a fishing activity at a previous Summerfest. *File.*

Rotary looking for partners for Summerfest

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Rotary is telling County residents to circle Aug. 6 on their calendars as the local service club prepares to bring Rotary Summerfest back to Head Lake Park.

The annual event has been a community staple for more than 60 years, but this iteration comes with a twist, explains Rotarian Ursula Devolin. Unlike homecomings and carnivals from yesteryear, Summerfest will allow an array of Highlands-based talent and businesses to take centre stage.

Rotary has put out a call for community partners to come forward with ideas for games, presentations, and other features to keep people busy on the day. The idea is to make these offerings free to the public, and help direct hundreds of eyes towards County businesses, entertainers, and entrepreneurs.

“We love that this new format is dynamic and affordable for families. Our call for partners engages the creativity of our entire population – anyone can offer a game, craft, or challenge that will bring laughter and joy to families,” Devolin said. “These unique offerings will make this event truly special.”

After taking an enforced hiatus during the pandemic, Devolin said Rotary had a tough time finding operators to bring a midway back to town when Summerfest returned in 2022. It’s meant the club has had to pivot to find new ways to keep the public engaged and entertained.

They have merged Summerfest festivities with the popular Music in the Park, a weekly concert series on Tuesday nights at the Haliburton bandshell. Jeff Moulton and friends will take to the stage Aug. 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be a children’s show prior,

with The Stunt Ventriloquist performing from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

There will be complimentary cotton candy and popcorn in the park from 4 to 8 p.m., coinciding with the partner event. Following recent tradition, Rotary will be BBQing up a storm throughout the event, offering beef on a bun and hot dogs for purchase.

During the musical intermission, at 8 p.m., the club will reveal the winner of its annual car draw, while also bringing out a cake to celebrate Rotary’s 80th anniversary in Haliburton.

“The week around Civic Day has always seen former Haliburton residents flock back to reconnect with family and friends and participate in local events – families can expect the same homecoming feeling they’ve always gotten from Rotary summer events,” Devolin said. “I’ve attended these events all my life... I’ve always loved doing an annual check-in with schoolmates who return each year.

And best of all, “kids can expect a lot of fun,” Devolin added.

Anyone interested in partnering with Rotary can contact Devolin at ursuladevolin@gmail.com. Materials for any activity, as well as staffing it, will be the responsibility of the individual vendors, she said.

Possible activities include a sidewalk chalk station, giant Jenga game, obstacle course, egg and spoon race, craft table, dance performance, musical offering, juggling tutorial, putting game, or bubble blowing. Devolin said partners can also pay to supply entertainment, such as a bouncy castle or animal show.

“The goal is to create a fabulously diverse Summerfest for children,” she said.



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It's a wrap

The clapperboard has come down on another successful Doc(k) Day in Haliburton County. The committee of Those Other Movies filled the house at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion April 13 with five movies that resonated with audiences. Themed ‘ordinary people doing extraordinary things’ the day began with two shorts, *The Last Repair Shop*, with special guests the Haliburton Music Exchange, then *A Human Picture*, with special guests, the Haliburton Basic Income Group. The feature films began in the afternoon with *Mr. Toilet*. Then, special guest Paul Saltzman shared the story of *Meeting the Beatles in India* and the night culminated with the screening of *The Movie Man*, about the iconic Keith Stata and his Highlands Cinema, with director Matt Finlin and helper Brad Brown in attendance. (Lisa Gervais).

Top: Bonnie Roe, Doc(k) Day committee member, Tammy Rea, and Greg Roe on the red carpet. Above: Filmmaker, Paul Saltzman, autographs a book for Malcolm O'Brien. Photos by Lisa Gervais.



A group of cyclists with the Haliburton Real Easy Ryders club stop for a break at the Eagle Lake Country Market on a ride last year. *Submitted.*

Time for a real easy ride

By Mike Baker

Cyclists Robin Bell and LeeAnn Cruz say the best way to stay in shape over the summer is to get out and pound pavement across Haliburton County using nothing but a pair of wheels.

The duo are members of the Haliburton Real Easy Ryders cycling club, a membership-based group committed to promoting biking across the Highlands.

With the 2024 season on the horizon, the club is hosting an information session at the Stanhope Firefighters' Hall April 28, from 1 to 3 p.m., where people can learn about the Ryders. Bell said there will be volunteers offering safety tips and teaching about biking etiquette.

"This is sort of like our annual kick off. There won't be any riding at the event – it's more of a workshop for people who may be interested in becoming a member or learning about everything we do," Bell, past president of the group, told *The Highlander*.

Cruz, the current president, added, "We want to get our name out there and tell people that it doesn't matter if you consider yourself an experienced rider or not, if you have a road bike, gravel bike, fat bike, or e-bike, anyone is welcome."

Memberships run \$40 annually. It qualifies riders to participate in up to three weekly local rides – on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays – as well as monthly socials. Members will also be granted access to the club's Ride for GPS, which tracks distance covered and provides voice navigation for all ride routes, and Zwift, for virtual riding, accounts.

Now into its 27th year, the group has gone through something of a renaissance post-pandemic. It had 105 members in 2019, dropping to 55 in 2021 at the peak of COVID-19 lockdown measures, but climbing to 159 last season.

Cruz said members like that each ride starts in a different location.

"Some rides will leave from Head Lake Park, so a nice central location, but we have others that start in Wilberforce, Stanhope, rural Minden. We try to hit all four corners of the County," she said.

There will usually be 20 or 30 riders at each event. Bell said those larger groups will typically break off into smaller groups of five to six people, depending on how fast and far they want to ride.

"It's important that, as cyclists, you don't completely take over the road. Riding in smaller groups allows vehicles to pass safely," he said.

Now into his 60s, Bell said he's planning to enter this year's Hurtin' in Haliburton, an annual eight-hour bike race in Haliburton Forest. He'll be using his weekly rides with the Ryders to prepare.

He said cycling has helped keep him feeling young at heart. For Cruz, after years of trying and dropping various fitness initiatives, she said cycling is a perfect fit for her, and many others.

"There's no impact on your joints. It's great for cardiovascular health, building fitness and muscle – it's a full body workout," Cruz said. "You've got your upper body going constantly, your core strength for balance, and then your quads, hamstrings, and calves through pedalling."

"After a long ride, you'll feel the results – you'll be tired, but there's no better workout in my opinion. Cycling just hits all the important points," she added.

The first outdoor ride is scheduled for April 30 in Stanhope. "I've made so many friends by being part of the Easy Ryders – it's just as much a social thing for me as it is a fitness thing," Bell said. "I'd encourage it to anyone. It's a great group of people."

For more information, visit haliburtonrealeasyryders.com.



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Gatineau-based trio to lift Minden church

Haliburton County Folk Society's Barrie Martin says churches have ideal acoustics and are great venues for live music.

Highlands' churches often host concerts presented by organizations such as the Highlands Opera Studio, HCFS, choir groups, and the churches themselves.

Martin added there have been memorable concerts in the Maple Lake United Church, Lakeside Baptist, St. George's and Irondale churches.

The Highland Hills United Church in Minden is no exception, he added, as the folk society has presented many concerts there over the years.

"The wonderful sound qualities, wood and stained-glass beauty, the spirit of place, and soft seats make it the perfect venue," Martin said.

The church will again be full of harmonies April 20 with a performance by Leverage for Mountains. They are a trio from Gatineau, Quebec, who will be opened by special guests, The Salt Cellars.

Leverage For Mountains is Nick Loyer, Jay Trépanier and Jay Flynn. The indie/folk trio is quickly gaining popularity with their rich acoustic sound and powerful vocal harmonies.

Flynn said the show was initially planned to be part of their tour last February but they had to postpone it to April for him to be able to be present for the birth of his baby girl. "Sue Shikaze from the Haliburton County Folk Society has been a real sport

to accommodate the postponement and we couldn't be more thrilled to perform Saturday," Flynn said.

Loyer added it's their first visit to Minden but they hope it won't be their last.

"We feel pretty excited to meet new people. We know the Haliburton County Folk Society has been working really hard to push this show and want to give them a great night of live music."

He said he thinks the audience will love the story-telling, harmonies and deep and thoughtful lyrics.

"This is a show for the people to feel at home with us in their living-room. A nice, cozy, evening with the LFM family."

Martin said Elly Tose of the Sleeping Giant Folk Music Society said, "Leverage for Mountains were a delight to host as part of our concert series. Finely crafted three-part harmony, seamlessly blended with instrumental skills, superb songwriting, and witty banter, had our audience laughing one minute and wiping away tears the next. Their music can absolutely leverage mountains."

Just before the pandemic, Don Bird, former artistic director of the Summerfolk Music and Dance Festival (Owen Sound) said, "these guys stunned the Folk Music Ontario conference. A 'must-see' Gatineau band that should be at every festival next year."

Martin said several members of the HCFS attended that conference and "wholeheartedly agree with Don Bird." He said artistic director, Sue Shikaze, has worked hard to get



Leverage For Mountains is Nick Loyer, Jay Trépanier and Jay Flynn. *Submitted.*

them to come to the Highlands.

The Salt Cellars are an independent duo from the south side of Algonquin Park. They are a product of their many influences and blend the sounds of Folk, Americana, Blues, Jazz and Pop to create a sound uniquely their own. "People love their tight harmonies, writing styles, skilled musicianship and energy," Martin said.

Tickets are available at haliburtonfolk.com. The show is presented by the HCFS, a

part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative. For more information about the coop see haliburtoncooperative.on.ca.

Doors open at 7 p.m. for a 7:30 p.m. start. Tickets are \$40, \$35 for folk society members and students, \$45 at the door. Children and youth 18 & under are free. Children 12 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets must be obtained online to reserve a ticket for children and youth.

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EVENTS

April 18, 1:30 p.m.
Haliburton County Historical Society is hosting a meeting at the Haliburton Highlands Museum, featuring guest speaker Fay Martin, vice president of local affordable housing group Places for People. Come and learn what this non-profit is all about. All are welcome.

April 18, 5 p.m.
Join the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Haliburton County Public Library for a special screening of *The Magnitude of All Things*. Admission is free and all ages are welcome. The documentary explores the emotional and psychological dimensions of the climate crisis and the relationship between grief and hope in times of personal and planetary change.

April 20, 1 to 5 p.m.
A brand new Earth Day event is being planned to celebrate the occasion in Gooderham. In the spirit of reduce, reuse, and recycle, the Gooderham Community Centre will be filled with tables offering new and gently used items for sale, as well as tables featuring Earth Day displays. Organized by the Gooderham Community Action Group. Hot dogs and refreshments will be available for purchase. All are welcome.

April 21, 1:30 p.m.
Environment Haliburton! presents 'Powering Ontario' a hybrid virtual/in-person presentation focusing on the need to transition to a 100 per cent renewable electrical grid, and how we can get there. Featuring Angela Bischoff, of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance. A Q&A will follow, with EH! then hosting its 2024 annual general meeting. All are welcome. In-person at Highland Hills United Church in Minden. For more information, visit environmenthaliburton.org.

April 23, 2 p.m.
Stop by the Dysart et al branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for a workshop showing how wire and recycled objects can be used to create a freestanding decorative tree. No registration required.

April 26, 2 p.m.
Learn how to use the 'speed-dial' method of cold-moist stratification to prepare native wildflower seeds for planting. This is a free program for adults at the Dysart et al branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. No registration required.

April 27, 3:30 p.m.
Razzamataz Kids' Shows presents 'Spirit and Tradition', an Indigenous dance show from the British Columbian northwest coast. At the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for kids. For more information, visit razzamataz.ca.

April 27, 4 p.m.
Dinner and auction at Galway Hall in Kinmount. Tickets are \$35 per person for a roast beef dinner. There will also be silent and live auctions, and games of chance. Doors open at 4 p.m., dinner served at 6 p.m. All proceeds support beautification projects in Kinmount. For tickets, call 705-928-2635.

April 28, noon to 3 p.m.
LGBTQ+ seniors and allies 'Sunday Friends' drop-in at SIRCH Bistro in Haliburton. Light lunch provided, donations appreciated. Sponsored by Aging Together as Community (ATAC) in partnership with Minden Pride and SIRCH. Join us to share a story and make new friends. Transportation can be arranged - register by April 22 by contacting peterfquinton@gmail.com.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton
Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Rm.
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. There's a \$1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.
Clubroom hours: Mon 3-6 p.m., Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk
Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.
First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.
Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.
April 20: 7 p.m. Norm Harris Progressive Euchre Tournament, \$5 per person. Lunch provided.
April 26: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch - meatloaf or liver and onions. \$15 per person.
Contact Legion 705-454-8127

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce
April 18: Open 2 to 6 p.m.
April 19: Open 2 to 9 p.m. Fish and chips 5 to 8 p.m.
April 20: Open 2 to 6 p.m. House league darts 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw at 3 p.m.
April 21-23: Closed
April 24: Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts at 2 p.m.
If you are planning an event, our Ladies Auxiliary would be pleased to cater. Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden
Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
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Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.
Upcoming events - seniors program.
April 21: Rexall presentation from 1-2:30p.m.



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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of
Harry Gilmore

Passed away peacefully at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the age of 98.

Beloved husband for 70 years to Elaine (nee Minaker). Dear father of Lorraine and her husband Jeff Lancaster, and Rick Gilmore. Loving grandpa of Ashley, Charlene, Daniel, Connor (predeceased - 2009). Dear brother of Jean Campbell and predeceased by Ritchie, Bobby and Dorothy. Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd, 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Friday, April 19, 2024 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Harry's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Interment at Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery, Ingoldsby.

For those who cannot attend Harry's Celebration Service will be livestreamed at www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com. The link for the service is in the Photos and Videos and will appear the day of the service at 1:00 pm and will remain on the website for one week.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery (cheques only), Canadian Cancer Society or the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.



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In Loving Memory of
Linda Ellen Nesbitt
(nee Foster)

Passed away suddenly in the Dominican Republic on March 24, 2024 while on vacation with her family, at the age of 76.

Loving wife of Ron for 57 years. Dear mother of Laurie and her husband Conrad Cormier of St. Thomas, Ronn and his wife Jenn of Minden. Loving grandma of Nicholas and his wife Tynille, Virginia, Andrew, Rachel and her partner Dez, Maggie and her partner Dylan, Holly and her partner Dylan, J.P., Jillian, Tamara and her husband Tom, Nairen and great grandma to Liam, Sparrow, Maxwell, Marcus, Michael, Damien, Dorian, Lyza, Lincoln, Francesco, Anthony and Lilith. Dear sister of Jim (Eileen), Charles, Gordon (Barb), Tom (Marg), Shirley (Bert), Ken (Mary), Robert (Sandra), Mary, Lloyd (Janet). Fondly remembered by nieces, nephews, family and friends. Linda was a member of Minden Lions Club and enjoyed being a member.

To Celebrate Linda's Life, a Memorial Visitation will be held at the Minden and District Lion's Club, 166 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden on Saturday, May 25, 2024 from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Minden and District Lion's Club Administration Account (cheques only) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

NOTICES

Offer at Shell Jug City Minden Station
CAA offer 3 cents off on the gas and 10% on the items inside the store except lotto and cigarettes

EVENT

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
Saturday, April 20th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Minden Legion, a musical performance for the Minden Food Bank will be performed by Mike Clewlow and Jeff Moulton. Admission is by cash donation to the Minden Food Bank (April 18) Minden Food Bank.



Mary Harnden
(Nee Saunders)

Mary passed surrounded by the love of her family at Northumberland Hills Hospital at 88 years of age. Mary was born to Albert and Ethel Saunders and raised on the family farm in Wilberforce. After raising her family in Cobourg, Mary returned to her roots up north where she continued to develop her many talents. Over the last several years, Mary enjoyed the friendships formed within her apartment community in Cobourg. Always up for a project, she transformed a strip of land into a garden filled with colourful plantings. Mary will be forever missed by her children, Janet (Fred Swanson), Joanne McCullough (Tom Corneil) and Mark (Nancy Hompus). She was blessed with her grandchildren, Jesse Campbell (Dan), Ben Harnden (Stacey) and Matthew McCullough along with her great grandchildren Madelyn and Cole Harnden. Mary is now reunited with her brother Jim Saunders (deceased 2019) and is survived by her sister-in-law Mina Saunders and their children. Special thanks to Dr. Al-Ali and the intensive and palliative care departments of NHH for her care.

Visitation & Funeral Service

In keeping with Mary's wishes a Funeral Service will take place on Saturday morning, May 4, 2024 at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior) at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209. A reception will follow in The Community Room. Interment South Wilberforce Cemetery. For those wishing to join the family virtually please follow the enclosed link. <https://join.skype.com/m57em6troWu4>. As an expression of sympathy, donations may be made to a charity of your choice and would be appreciated by the family.



www.communityfuneralhomes.com

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory

Barb Morrison
September 7, 1963 to April 15, 2018

*No longer by my side.
But forever in my heart.*

Love, Les and family

CLASSIFIEDS \$9

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Courts: MINDEN • LINDSAY • PETERBOROUGH • BANCROFT

SOLUTIONS FOR APRIL 18

1	D	E	N	A	D	A		7	D	A	U	B	S		12	O	R							
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69	M	E	R				70	R	A	B	B	I			71	G	U	E	R	R				
72	E	S	S				73	S	P	I	C	E			74	S	T	R	E	S				

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	C	O	L	A		5	C	F	C		8	B	L	A	N	C	A
14	P	N	O	M			15	M	L	A		16	R	E	S	E	L
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							20	A	S	R		21	A	R	E		
							22	C	N	S		23	D	E	O		
24	C	R	E	A	M						25	G	O	D	S	G	I
27	F	I	L	L	E		28	T	O	F	S	O	L	E			
30	L	O	I				31	O	N	O					32	I	N
							34	P	I	C	K	E	R		37	U	P
							39	S	P	H					40	C	A
							44	S	I	L	V	E	R	T	47	O	N
49	S	T	O	O	L	I	E	S						52	L	O	G
53	Y	O	N				54	D	O	E				55	P	A	D
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65	S	E	R	E	N	A					66	O	K	S		67	K

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HELP WANTED



The Municipality of Highlands East is currently recruiting for an **Executive Assistant to the CAO/Treasurer-Deputy Clerk (Maternity Leave Coverage)**.

This will be a contract position starting June 2024 for a period of approximately 16-18 months.

Salary Range- \$33.40- \$39.30, dependent upon qualifications

Hours of Work: 35 Hours Per Week, Monday to Friday

A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application - Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Monday, May 6th, 2024, via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
Fax: 705-448-2532 E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/ Treasurer.



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

We are currently seeking an experienced Executive Director to work with our Board of Directors to provide leadership to the Abbey Gardens staff team. Responsibilities include: financial management, planning and development, nurturing community partnerships, human resources, marketing and communications, and oversee strategic growth.

For full job description please go to abbeygardens.ca/get-involved/#jobs

Applications can be submitted via email to bolin.barb@gmail.com. Deadline for applications is **April 19**. Interviews will be done on a rolling basis so please apply early.



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TO
SELL?**

With over 8,000 copies printed and distributed and 7,700 sent by email, The Highlander is the #1 place to get your message noticed.

Place a classified ad by emailing admin@thehighlander.ca or calling 705-457-2900. \$9 for 25 words.

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AT 5PM**

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DRIVERS - part time or full time - needed for Hyland Taxi. G License for taxi is required. B, C or F License required for 11 passenger van and bus.
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YARD SALES

GARAGE SALE – 1171 Grass Lake Road. Saturday, April 20th at 8 a.m. Collectables & Misc items. Rain date, Sunday, April 21st.

MOVING SALE – 51 Webb Circle (Silver Beach) off Wigamog Road. Saturday, April 20th & Sunday, April 21st from 9 a.m. to Noon

WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

WANTED: Items for donation for long-term care and senior residents. Eg. 50 watt amplifier or Kurzweil PC 88. Call John 705-457-7941

**GET YOUR NEWS AT
THEHIGHLANDER.CA**

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. \$125 per face cord – pick up. Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE – MAPLE FIREWOOD - 2 years dried. \$350 per bush cord, pick-up only, Kennisis Lake area. Call Jon at 705-754-2660

FOR SALE - 2022 RV Crossroad Trailer. Excellent condition. Fully equipped. 36 ft. Sleeps 10. Great family unit. Paid \$65,000. Asking \$40,000. Call 647-526-6285

FOR SALE – 28 ft House Trailer (2006) Good condition, satellite TV, \$14,000 or best offer. Call for further information. 705-457-3283 OR 705-455-3274

FOR SALE – Treadmill, Tempo 621T, LED Display and a lot more features, hardly ever used, excellent condition. \$150. Call or text 705-457-0368

FOR RENT – Room for rent, house to share. Call Dave at 705-457-6168

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT - 160 Highland Street, Haliburton - 1500 sq ft available April 1, 2024 Measton3@rogers.com or call 705-457-8868

SELF-CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent - Industrial Park Road, various sizes Call (705) 457-1224

SERVICES

SKILLED HANDYMAN - Available for renovations, trim, tile, bathroom, deck, basement, flooring and paint. Please call or text Bob at 705-457-6190

MAH UPHOLSTERY – Boat Covers & Repairs. Boal Interiors & Repairs. ATV, See-Do, Snowmobile and Motorcycle seats. Call 705-457-0726

The Birds are Back

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across**
- 1 Spanish "you're welcome"
 - 7 Sponge painting splotches
 - 12 Anesthetist's hosp. spots
 - 15 Single track loop
 - 16 "Just s'pose"
 - 17 Like "la" or "une" Fr. nouns
 - 18 Is a polite host at a party for marsh birds?
 - 20 201, in Roman numerals
 - 21 Thrice daily, on an Rx
 - 22 Prefix relating to gas
 - 23 Sauna user's comment
 - 25 Join ___ (sign up for membership in)
 - 27 Tennis wear for a "baby" bird?
 - 30 Charges toward angrily
 - 32 Catch the drift
 - 33 ___-de-camp
 - 34 Scheduled for, as a show
 - 36 Modern price tags, for short
 - 39 100-yr. span
 - 40 Less loyal woodpecker?
 - 44 "Boy, am ___ trouble!"
 - 45 ___-ball (carnival game)
 - 46 Hammer-on-finger cry
 - 47 Mexican shell food?
 - 49 Ginseng kin
 - 51 Body shop courtesy car
 - 55 Chiropractor's target on a long-billed wader?
 - 59 Softly, to Schubert
 - 60 Eighth part of a circle
 - 61 Son of Ares
 - 63 Coups for Argos, for short
 - 64 Maiden name word
 - 65 Ptarmigans who flout the status quo?
 - 69 Fruits de ___ (French "seafood")
 - 70 "My teacher," in Hebrew
 - 71 "La ___ et la Paix" (French Tolstoy title)
 - 72 Frowned-on female suffix
 - 73 Zest
 - 74 Place importance on

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72				73						74					

- Down**
- 1 Collar ID?
 - 2 Physicist Fermi
 - 3 Record player stylus
 - 4 Ginger ___
 - 5 Information storers
 - 6 Church part, or anagram of "peas"
 - 7 Things you can count on?
 - 8 Madagascar's cont.
 - 9 Don't let collect dust
 - 10 Dye-and-wax fabric art
 - 11 Ways to function: Abbr.
 - 12 Preferred, as a drink, say
 - 13 Band student's first instrument, often
 - 14 Head-over-heels in love
 - 19 Utterances of uncertainty
 - 24 Some Jamaican music
 - 26 American Olympics org.
 - 28 Coop find, in Québec
 - 29 Get back (to)
 - 31 It's cheap, it's said
 - 35 Arrange, as a date
 - 37 Sky: Fr.
 - 38 Removes, as pumpkin pulp
 - 40 Brides-to-be
 - 41 Ones who stir up trouble
 - 42 No-prep product word
 - 43 "The Bridge on the River ___"
 - 44 "Put away your wallet"
 - 48 Grandpa, to Gretel
 - 50 Baby bodysuit
 - 52 Suzuki's "The ___ of Things"
 - 53 Rear-___ (some fender benders)
 - 54 Supremes Diana, and others
 - 56 Grads given iron rings: Abbr.
 - 57 Bus rider's handhold
 - 58 Poetic "before"
 - 62 Non-profit assns.
 - 66 Kimono sash
 - 67 Large west coast campus: Abbr.
 - 68 48-Downs's lang.

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Saturday 8am - 8pm
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